What is claimed is:

1. A method of sanitizing chromatographic media, the method comprising contacting the media with a solution of guanidine hydrochloride at a pH of about 1 to about 5, for a time and at a temperature sufficient to achieve a desired level of sanitization while preserving desirable characteristics of the media.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sanitizing includes viral inactivation.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the viral inactivation is sufficient to allow the sanitized media to be subsequently utilized in the purification or preparation of materials for therapeutic administration.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein chromatographic media is exposed to the solution of guanidine hydrochloride at a temperature from about 0°C to about 25°C.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature is about 4°C.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the solution of guanidine hydrochloride is at a concentration of guanidine hydrochloride from about 3 molar to about 8 molar.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of guanidine hydrochloride is about 7 molar.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the solution of guanidine hydrochloride is at a pH from about 2.5 to about 4.5.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the chromatographic media is selected from the group consisting of resins having alkaline-labile matrices and resins having alkaline-labile ligands.

10. A method of sanitizing chromatographic media, the method comprising contacting the media with a solution of guanidine hydrochloride at a concentration of guanidine hydrochloride from about 3 molar to about 8 molar, at a temperature from about 0°C to about 10°C, and at a pH of from about 1 to about 5.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the sanitizing comprises contacting the chromatographic media with the solution under conditions sufficient for inactivation of infectious agents that may contaminate the chromatographic media.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the infectious agents are viral, cellular, or pathogenic protein contaminants of blood products.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the contaminants of blood products are selected from the group consisting of parvovirus B19, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis viruses, human herpes viruses, cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus, West Nile virus, *Treponema pallidum, Neisseria gonorrhoea, Chlamydia trachomatis, Streptococcus pyogenes, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Brucella melitensis, Brucella melitensis, Ehrlichia, Staphylococci, Pseudomonas aeruginos*, Plasmodium, Trypanosoma cruzi, Babesia microti, and pathogenic prion protein.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the infectious agent is a virus selected from the group consisting of parvovirus B19, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis viruses, human herpes viruses, cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus, and West Nile virus.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the infectious agent is a prion protein.

16. A method for inactivation a virus associated with chromatographic media sufficient to allow the media to be subsequently utilized in the purification or preparation of materials for therapeutic administration, the method comprising contacting the media with a solution of guanidine hydrochloride at a concentration of guanidine hydrochloride from about 3 molar to about 8 molar, at a temperature from about 0°C to about 10°C, and at a pH of about 1 to about 5.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the solution of guanidine hydrochloride is at a concentration of guanidine hydrochloride of about 7 molar.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the temperature is about 4°C.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the pH is about 4.

20. A method accomplishing viral inactivation of chromatographic resins selected from the group consisting of resins having alkaline-labile matrices and resins having alkaline-labile ligands, the method comprising contacting the resins with a solution of guanidine hydrochloride at a concentration of guanidine hydrochloride from about 3 molar to about 8 molar, at a temperature from about 0°C to about 10°C, and at a pH from about 2.5 to about 4.5.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the concentration of guanidine hydrochloride is about 7 molar.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the temperature is about 4°C.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the pH is about 4.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the resin has an alkaline-labile linkage.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the resin is selected from the group consisting of benzamidine-SEPHAROSE, heparin-SEPHAROSE, CIBACRON Blue-SEPHAROSE, and Protein A-SEPHAROSE.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein the resin comprises an alkali-labile ligand or ligand linkage.

27. A method of sanitizing chromatographic media, the method comprising

contacting the media with a solution of guanidine hydrochloride at a pH of about 1 to about 5, for a time and at a temperature sufficient to achieve a desired level of sanitization while preserving desirable characteristics of the media;

recovering the media; and

testing the media to confirm a desired level of sanitization.

28. A method of sanitizing chromatographic media, the method comprising

contacting the media with a solution of guanidine hydrochloride at a concentration of guanidine hydrochloride from about 3 molar to about 8 molar, at a temperature from about 0°C to about 10°C, and at a pH from about 2.5 to about 4.5,

recovering the media; and

testing the media to confirm a desired level of sanitization.